

REMARKS

Claims 1–4, 7–15, 18–30 and 34–49 are pending in the present application. Claims 7, 10, 18, 21, 33 and 35 stand rejected as depending on a canceled claim. Claims 7, 10, 18, 21, 33 and 35 have been amended in response to the objection.

The Examiner has indicated that restriction to one of the following groups of claims is required under 35 U.S.C. § 121:

- I. Claims 1–4 and 7–11;
- II. Claims 12–30, 33–36, 39, 40 and 43–49; or
- III. Claims 37, 41 and 42.

Applicants hereby elect, without traverse, the claims of Group II, i.e., claims 12–30, 33–36, 39, 40 and 43–49.

Applicants respectfully submit that all pending claims are in condition for allowance. Prompt consideration and allowance of the present application is therefore earnestly solicited.

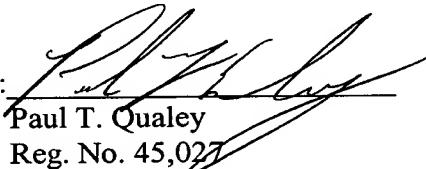
The Office is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees or credit any overpayments under 37 C.F.R. §1.16 or §1.17 to Deposit Account No. 11-0600.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at (212) 425-7200 to discuss the application.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: September 17, 2004

By:


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